

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 302697
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:COCECIL:ACW
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM
NEA:MSTERNER

----- 118973 /11

R 140107Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 302697

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SA

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATES OF RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

REF: JIDDA 7844

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON RAISED QUESTION OF RELIGIOUS CERTIFICATES WITH AMBASSADOR ALIREZA ON DECEMBER 7, NOTING THAT NEW YORK CONSULATE, IN PARTICULAR, SEEMED NOT ALWAYS TO BE FOLLOWING WHAT WE UNDERSTOOD TO BE SAG POLICY. ALIREZA ASSURED ATHERTON THAT IT IS SAG POLICY THAT SUCH CERTIFICATES NOT BE REQUIRED AND GAVE FLAT ASSURANCE THIS IS POLICY OF SAUDI OFFICES IN THE U.S. ALIREZA TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE THAT WHEN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ISSUED CIRCULAR INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS EFFECT, NEW YORK CONSULATE HAD TAKEN ISSUE, BUT THAT CONSULATE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO FOLLOW POLICY AND TAKE INSTRUCTION FROM AMBASSADOR ON THIS ISSUE. (FYI, WE ARE AWARE THAT CONSULATE HAS IN FACT DEVIATED FROM THIS POLICY, A PROBLEM WE CALLED TO ATTENTION OF SAG EMBASSY IN OCTOBER. WE BELIEVE LATEST DISCUSSION SHOULD SOLVE PROBLEM, BUT WILL REMAIN ALERT TO CONSULATE'S PRACTICES).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 302697

2. ALIREZA ALSO STATED THAT VISA APPLICATION INSTRUCTION SHEET WHICH ACCOMPANIES APPLICATION FORM IS BEING

REPRINTED TO ELIMINATE ANY REFERENCE TO RELIGIOUS CERTIFICATES. UP TO NOW, EMBASSY HAD MERELY CROSSED OUT THIS REQUIREMENT BY HAND. HE ADDED THAT IF APPLICANTS PRESENT CERTIFICATES SAUDI VISA OFFICERS ARE INSTRUCTED TO ACCEPT THEM.

3. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT CERTIFICATES WERE ELIMINATED BY A CIRCULAR INSTRUCTION TO ALL SAUDI EMBASSIES ABROAD. IN ADDITION TO POSTS LISTED REFTEL, WE HAVE REPORTS THAT CERTIFICATES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REQUIRED OF AMERICANS IN THE HAGUE. EMBASSY JIDDA SHOULD CALL TO ATTENTION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY APPARENT NEED TO REAFFIRM SAG POLICY TO ITS POSTS ABROAD, NOTING THAT SO LONG AS CERTIFICATES ARE REQUIRED AT ANY POST CONFUSION AS TO ACTUAL POLICY PERSISTS, AND PROHIBITS US FROM GIVING UNQUALIFIED ASSURANCES IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES ABOUT PRESENT POLICY. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE302697
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COCECIL:ACW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760460-0085
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761244/aaaablul.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 JIDDA 7844
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CERTIFICATES OF RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION
TAGS: CVIS, SA
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006